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shortly reinforced by six companies of the 23rd Battalion, later, Colonel Patton was ordered to detach these companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry under Captain John K. Thompson. Colonel George S. Patton commanded Echol's Brigade. The 22nd Virginia went into action with five hundred and fifty strong, losing one hundred and thirteen in killed, wounded and missing. The 23rd Virginia Battalion, three hundred and fifty strong, lost sixty-one in killed, wounded and missing.

Three companies of the 22nd under Captain Thompson, one hundred and twenty-five strong, lost nine killed, thirty wounded, twelve missing. Battle ended at 4 P. M.

Report of Maj. Wm. Blessing, 23rd Virginia Battalion

" When the fighting became very severe I was ordered to march with six companies to the support of Captain Marshall, who, with one hundred and twenty-five dismounted cavalry, was being forced back on the left.

We were then forced back to a fence at the Bloody Angle. We were then reinforced by three companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one dismounted company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry.

Report of Colonel Thompson

Colonel Thompson, 19th Virginia Cavalry, says that he sent one hundred cavalry under command of Captain Marshall,

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the command consisting of the 19th and 20th Virginia Cavalry just then, Major Blessing commanding Dennings Battery, consisting of three hundred men, he having deployed his men on the right of the line formed by Captain Marshall.

Report of Col. W. Wiley, 20th Virginia Cavalry

Says that about 2 P. M. we were attacked by the 2nd and 3rd and 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry.

Report of Col. Milton J. Ferguson

Colonel Ferguson, 16th Virginia Cavalry, says that he reported to General Echols on the 5th of November, who was then on the march, and arrived at the camp of Colonel Jackson at the eastern base of Droop Mountain, at 6 A. M. on the morning of the 6th. One squadron of the 14th Regiment was ordered to take position on the old road of Locust Creek. The efficient men of six companies were dismounted, four companies placed on the extreme left under command of Lieutenant Colonel Gibson and two companies in center. John D. Baxter, orderly sergeant of Company F, 10th West Virginia Infantry, was the first one to cross the rail fence at the bloody angle, and fell mortally wounded inside the enemy's lines.

This whole report has been taken from "Report of Droop Mountain Battlefield Commission" John D. Sutton, Chairman.

~~History~~ History

Battle of Groop Mountain

November 6, 1863

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Rella T Yeager ✓

Events and dates preceding battle  
Troops engaged

Source:  
Captain E. R. Hovey

Hella F. Yeager :

*Hella Yeager*  
*From notes sent to her*

*U.S. 219*  
*Young*

BATTLE OF DROOP MOUNTAIN  
November 6, 1863

By Capt. E. R. Howery

EVENTS AND DATES PRECEDING BATTLE

- Nov. 1, 1863--Gen. W. W. Averell left Beverly, West Virginia
- Nov. 3, 1863--Gen. A. N. Duffie left Charleston, West Virginia
- Nov. 5, 1863--Gen. John Echols occupied Droop Mountain

Number of troops engaged (Union)-----4700  
 Number of troops (Confederate)-----3950  
 Number Killed (Union)----- 130  
 Number killed (Confederate)----- 400

Troops from West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania took part in the battle.

The Battle of Droop Mountain was fought November 6th, 1863 between Union Forces, commanded by Brig. Gen. William W. Averell, U. S. Army, and confederates troops under the command of Brig. Gen. John Echols, C. S. Army.

One of the reasons for the meeting of these two forces in West Virginia at this time was; The western part of Virginia was inhabited by people who were in favor of the Union, so June 20th, 1863 the old state of Virginia became divided into Virginia and West Virginia.

Confederate troops then were sent into the newly formed state so as to harass the Union troops in that vicinity, also to break down the morale of the people who had left the old state of Virginia. The Southern Troops were very successful. They occupied the Greenbrier Valley with Headquarters at Lewisburg. The road from Lewisburg via Union to the Virginia border was the only available road to Virginia and Tennessee and had the Union troops who were located in the vicinity of Elkins and near Charleston separated. Also winter was coming and the Confederate forces had to be drawn

out so that the line could be maintained. The Southern troops were living off of the country and the people were insisting that aid be sent to them.

On October 26th, Gen Benjamin Kelly, U. S. Army ordered General Averell, who at that time was stationed at Beverly, West Virginia, to move to Lewisburg and capture or drive away any Confederate forces stationed in that vicinity. Also to join forces with General Duffie who left Charleston November 3rd, 1863 at 6:00 A.M. for Lewisburg. After a junction of the two forces, they were to move to Union, W. Va. and thence to Virginia and Tennessee R.R., at Dublin Station and destroy the railroad bridge over New River.

General Averell moved on the 1st day of November and immediately contacted gorilla bands and small detachments of Confederate troops. The forces of Gen. Averell were able to push back all resistance and on November 5th, reached the town of Hillsboro, West Virginia, about 3 miles from Droop Mountain and 33 miles from Lewisburg. The Union forces were advised that General Duffie would not reach Lewisburg, until November 7th so didn't attack until the morning of November 6th, 1863.

The plan of attack by the Union troops was as follows: 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry were placed near the Locust Creek bridge in sight of the Confederate lines, and kept moving around giving the appearance of starting towards the Southern lines.

Keepers battery was placed on the hill above Beards Mill, and immediately opened fire on the Confederate batteries on top of Droop Mountain about 8:00 A. M. Eivon's battery was placed to the left of the turnpike between Hillsboro and Droop. Gibson's battalion and the famous 10th W. Va. Infantry was held in readiness on the pike at Hillsboro.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry Regiments were on the right of the turnpike out of sight about two miles from the base of Droop Mountain. The 28th Ohio Infantry with one company of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry (about 1200 men in all) were sent on a long detour to the right via Lobelia to come over the Jacox road and take the Confederates on the left flank. This movement started about 5:00 A. M. and due to conditions of the roads, did not complete the march until 1:45 P.M.

The position of the Southerners was as follows: On the river road, Edgar's Battalion; on the brow of the mountain facing the Union troops from right and left, 22nd Virginia Cavalry under Colonel Patton; 19th Virginia Cavalry under Co. Cochran; Dorricks Battalion of Infantry, Jackson's batteries; Major Blessing with 6 companies of the 23rd Battalion was placed on the Lobelia-Jacox road covering the left flank. The right flank was protected by a steep mountain.

About 1:45 P. M. November 6th, 1863, the flanking party that had been sent via Lobelia reached the Confederate lines and immediately attacked. The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th Regiments immediately started a direct attack up the face of Droop Mountain. They joined force with the flanking party, and drove the Confederates back toward Lewisburg. Due to the road being narrow the Confederates were in confusion--Cavalry and Infantry all mixed up together.

Colonel Thompson was in command of the rear guard of the Confederate and it was through his strong defense that the Southern troops were able to withdraw without much loss of life or equipment. Another thing that might have influenced the retreat was that General Averell did not wish to push the Confederates

west, passing in Beverly.

too fast, as he wanted Gen. Duffie to reach Lewisburg first and cut them off. The Confederates retreated on through the night and passed through Lewisburg just as General Duffie entered the town from the west. General Duffie captured a few stragglers and some equipment.

This battle was the deciding point in West Virginia. After this the entire state was in the hands of the Northern armies.

One very interesting part of General Echol's report is quoted: "My artillery and trains were brought safely through with the exception of one brass Howitzer belonging to Chapman's battery, which broke completely down during the retreat so that it had to be left this offering the enemy the only trophy of which they can boast."

This cannon is supposed to have been buried in the swamp on Droop Mountain, but has never been found. For those who visit the Droop Mountain Battle Field, a large map has been drawn showing the position of the troop the day of the battle, also the present location of Camp Price, a larger and more distinct map than could be shown here. This larger map shows location of monuments, markers and other items of interest.

Co. 2598, CCC invites all to visit the Battle Field and will enjoy showing to visitors the old battle trenches, breastworks, gun implements and other interesting things.

*Puttack*

Mrs. Rella T. Yeager

*W. Yeager**From Confederate Veterans -  
official organ of the U.S.A.  
and U.C.V.**Hinton  
Randolph Co*

## BEVERLY UNDER ARTILLERY FIRE.

By Thomas J. Arnold, Elkins, W. Va.

An expedition that proved disastrous to the Confederates, and likewise for some who were not, was that connected with the occupation of Beverly, Va., now West Virginia, during the War between the States.

At the time of the Imboden raid through Western Virginia (April, 1863), Gen. William L. Jackson, who accompanied Imboden, casually remarked while in Beverly that he was coming back there to spend the 4th of July. Of course, no one took the remark seriously. Although it was commonly repeated afterwards, as well to the Federal commander as others, it passed unheeded. Sure enough, on the third day of July, a Confederate force unexpectedly appeared south of and in the vicinity of Beverly, under the command of Gen. William L. Jackson, who dispatched a detachment under Maj. J. B. Lady on the road leading northward, west of the river to its intersection with the road leading to Buckhannon, in order to cut off retreat in that direction. He having previously dispatched another detachment under the command of Col. A. C. Dunn, by a country road, eastward of the main road, with orders to occupy the road leading to Philippi, northward of Beverly, thus cutting off retreat in that direction. He planted his artillery on the slope of the hill, about one and one-half miles southwest of Beverly, and opened fire on the Federals, who were hurriedly gathered within their fortification. The Confederate guns were of small caliber, and, probably due to inferior ammunition, most of the shells fell short, landing in Beverly.



Col. Thomas M. Harris, of the 10th Virginia (Federal) Regiment, and who at a later period attained unenviable notoriety, as a member of the military court that tried and convicted Mrs. Surratt and sent her to the scaffold, was in command of the Federals. Guards were stationed on all the roads leading from Beverly; and no one--man, woman, or child--was permitted to pass these guards; hence all civilians were confined to the limits of the town and were thereby subjected to the fire of the Confederate artillery. Although this firing continued for a considerable part of two days, no citizens were injured, and but few houses were struck by shells.

It has always been the understanding, which is probably correct, that the detachment Jackson sent to approach Beverly from the north and open the attack, had in the course of their march found a supply of apple brandy; and the detachment became so intoxicated, that they lost sight of and interest in the undertaking. Jackson waited impatiently throughout the first day for the officer in command of this detachment to make the attack, as pre-arranged; the second day he was still expecting it every moment, but received no intelligence. Along toward noon there appeared, advancing up the valley, west of the river, an army of mounted men, deployed to sweep everything before them. It was Averill's full brigade of Federal cavalry. It was a formidable force. There was but one thing left for Jackson to do--get out as rapidly as possible or be overwhelmed. This he proceeded to do, and accomplished with such skill that he escaped with but slight loss.

Gen. William L. Jackson, while on the bench prior to the war, had held a term of court in Beverly, knew many of the

citizens, and was familiar with the country in the vicinity. Immediately following the fight, and while Averill was still in pursuit of Jackson, Colonel Harris dispatched guards through the country north of Beverly, who arrested quite a large number of citizens, all of whom were peaceable, law-abiding men--good citizens. They were marched into Beverly and formed in line near the old courthouse. Colonel Harris then walked along the front of the line and put this question to each one separately: "Are you a Union man?" When the answer was directly in the affirmative, the man was passed. When the answer was, "My sentiments are with the South," or its equivalent, Harris ordered the person giving such answer to take two steps forward. Several of those in line, in reply to the question, stated that they were "Constitutional Union men"; of these latter were Lennox Camden, a brother of Judge G. D. Camden, and Charles W. Russell, the latter, a late leading merchant and well known throughout the county, and who was a Union man. This answer evidently, in the opinion of Harris, did not constitute sufficient loyalty, for in each instance where this answer was given, such person was ordered to take the two steps to the front. When Harris had finished his questioning, there were thirteen in the advanced line. The number in this instance in the course of time proved to be a frightful exemplification of all that has ever been attributed to it in the way of being an omen of disaster by those given to superstition. The thirteen were immediately sent under guard to the Federal prison at Fort Delaware. The names of those sent were: Lennox Camden, Charles W. Russell, Thomas J. Caplinger, Levi D. Ward, George Caplinger, Jr., Smith Crouch, John Crouch, William Saulsbury, Phillip Isner, Pugh Chenoweth, William Clem, John

Leary, and Allen Isner.

The public at the time attributed these arrests to Harris's intense hatred of Southern sympathizers and his chagrin and anger at Jackson's having reached the immediate vicinity of Beverly without his knowledge, and especially as Jackson had made announcement of his intended coming several months in advance; all of which Harris realized constituted a severe reflection upon the commander of the post in not having been more alert, and in allowing himself to be thus surprised; and which, but for the miscarriage of Jackson's orders to Colonel Dunn, would have resulted in the probable capture of himself and his entire command; and also, the further fact that Jackson had succeeded in withdrawing his troops and escaping without material loss, all of which was intensified by the rebuke and criticism administered by General Averill, his superior officer. Averill, being a West Point graduate, had no special admiration for civilian army officers like Harris.

There is little doubt that Harris was smarting under Averill's criticisms, and especially as Averill attributed his own failure to defeat, if not to capture, Jackson's command to Harris's failure to notify him (Averill) in time. Averill, in his official report, says: "Had Colonel Harris furnished me with timely warning of the approach of the enemy, I should have killed, captured, or dispersed his entire command. As it was, he received but a slight lesson."

Later, on several occasions, most strenuous efforts were made to obtain the release of these men from Fort Delaware, where they were dying like sheep. The public generally knew they were

innocent of any charge; a number of them were influential men; but all efforts were without avail until virtually half of them had died in prison. When finally the survivors, seven in number, were released, one of them, Lennox Camden, died before reaching home. Another, Philip Isner, died a few days after reaching home. Smith Crouch and John Crouch died very soon afterwards. The three survivors, Charles W. Russell, Thomas B. Caplinger, and George Caplinger, were so broken in health as to suffer from the effects of their incarceration and treatment to the day of their demise.

Harris had, prior to the war, been a country doctor, practiced in Ritchie County (now West Virginia) and later, located in Glenville in the same State. After he became identified with the Union cause, he became intensely partisan. In those days intense partisanship was the stepping-stone, for many, to promotion. Harris had risen to the rank of colonel of the 10th Virginia (Federal) Regiment, as stated. This regiment contained many good men, and many who detested Harris. His unpopularity was such that while stationed at Beverly, he was shot at one night by some of his regiment, one bullet passing through his whiskers. Of this I was informed by one of his commissioned officers. Elevated to the rank of colonel, Harris seemed to have become obsessed with an exalted idea of the prominence that such an appointment carried with it. He was stationed at Beverly, a long time. Having the power of a despot, he was much dreaded, especially as he seemed ever ready to give a willing ear to the unreliable and disreputable who approached him with tales about their neighbors, and which resulted generally in the arrest and imprisonment of those so reported. It would be impossible for me to recall to memory, and I presume it is equally